



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD ARTILLERY CENTER AND FORT SILL
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSF-BF

MEMORANDUM FOR Field Artillery Commanders

SUBJECT: AFWA Comparative Study


1. In response to questions from the field, the USAFAS conducted an informal study of Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) meteorological data during the period March through May 2005. The study captured firing data using AFWA as the MET source and compared it to firing data using other sources of MET.
2. During the dry fire assessment, the USAFAS compared AFWA data to data generated using Pibal, MMS and standard (default) MET. During the live fire assessment, the USAFAS compared AFWA data to live firing data generated using MMS produced MET.
3. The results of the study, and the parameters within which the information was collected, are enclosed in slide format. The following conclusions are determined from this comparative study:
 - a. AFWA data presents significant possibilities; a formal OTEC test is being conducted.
 - b. Current MET from MMS or MMS-Profiler, when available, should continue to be the primary source of MET data.
 - c. AFWA should be considered a reasonable secondary source of cannon and rocket artillery MET data if MMS is not available. AFWA proves to be much more accurate in computing gunnery solution than standard (default) met; standard met should be the absolute last choice.
 - d. Units are encouraged to deploy with their MMS or MMS-Profiler MET sections. This should continue to be the primary source of data, and, the MMS produced information should be provided to AFWA to improve that source of information.
 - e. AFWA meteorological data supports the five requirements for accurate predicted fire. When the tactical situation permits, though, we recommend that units using AFWA data should *register to mitigate risk during danger close missions*.

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4. To gain access to AFWA generated MET date, the following web site should be used:
https://www.login.afwa.af.mil/front_door/knock.cgi?checked_cookies=yes . Also enclosed are instructions to use this site.

5. POC for this information is Mr. Ernest Smith, USAFAS Meteorological Section, DSN 639-2406.



DAVID P. VALCOURT
Major General, USA
Commanding

Encl

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USMC FA Detachment, Fort Sill OK

Instructions to gain access to the Air Force Weather Agency:

Click on the web site address:

https://www.login.afwa.af.mil/front_door/knock.cgi?checked_cookies=yes

1. Air Force Weather Agency Log In (Welcome) screen appears.
2. Click on the picture in the center of the screen.
3. Air Force Weather Agency Log In (User Name/Password) screen appears.
4. (a) Enter User Name and Password information and click the log in button.
(b) New User should click the New User area of the screen
5. New User will complete the New User Request Form and submit.
6. Access Info (User ID and Password) will be provided via email within 24 hours.